

leisureopportunities

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Study reveals benefits of green spaces in urban areas

Living in an urban area with green spaces has a better impact on mid-to long-term mental wellbeing than winning the lottery, a study has suggested.

Researchers from the European Centre for Environment and Human Health (ECEHH) found moving to a green space has a sustained positive effect for three years or longer.

In comparison, pay rises, promotions, or even lucrative lottery wins, only provided a 6-12 month boost to mental wellbeing before they returned to base levels.

The findings, which appear in the journal *Environmental Science and Technology*, suggest that access to good quality urban parks is beneficial to public health.

According to Dr William Bird, a GP and the CEO of Intelligent Health, it all comes down



The study used data from the British Household Panel Survey, which began in 1991

and stave off problems amplified by chronic stress, like obesity, smoking and drinking," said Dr Bird, who also helped set up the ECEHH, "The serenity, cleanliness, recreation opportunities and social interactions afforded by green space can all help us live longer by offsetting stress and anxiety – that's why properties with pleasant views command higher price tags."

Dr Bird cited a famous study conducted by Kaplan and Kaplan on Attentional Restoration Theory, which found green spaces have a positive impact on concentra-

tion levels and health.

"Health authorities should make a contribution to green space preservation, as they benefit financially from the improvements to public health," he added. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=e7D5E>

Virgin Active investing £100m into UK sites

Virgin Active will invest £100m in its UK sites over the next three years as part of a campaign to lure post-Christmas gym users to sign up as well as advanced preparation for an eventual stock market flotation.

The company said it will use the investment to refurbish its gyms and install a host of new equipment between now and 2017.

The investment programme builds on the £15m spent by Virgin last year to open nine upmarket gyms – known as its classic collection – to attract more customers. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=j3d5z>

Confusion over 2022 World Cup dates

FIFA's general secretary, Jerome Valcke, has said that the FIFA World Cup in Qatar in 2022 will be moved from the traditional summer date (June-July) over fears that the temperature would have an adverse effect on both fans and players.

FIFA president Sepp Blatter had already expressed a desire to host the tournament in November or December but organisers had still hoped to host it during the summer of 2022.

"The dates for the World Cup (in Qatar) will not be in June-July," said Valcke speaking to Radio France. "If you play between 15 November and the end of December that's the time when the weather conditions are best,



Valcke says the World Cup will be moved from summer

when you can play at temperatures averaging 25 degrees."

However FIFA has released a statement saying that no decision had been taken on the timing.

Continued on back cover

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Aquatics Centre to open to the public

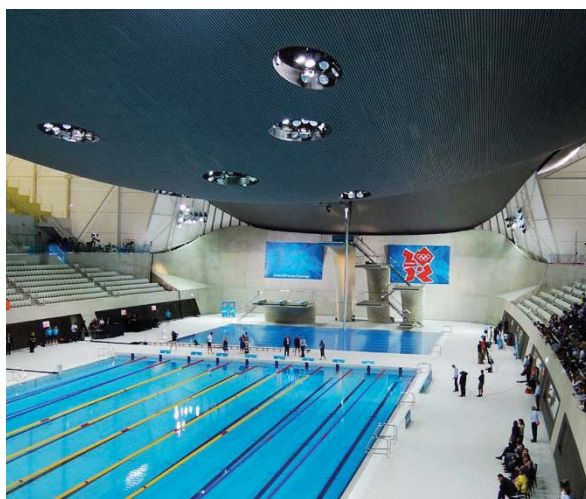
The Zaha Hadid-designed Aquatics Centre, used during the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics, will open to the public on 1 March.

The London Legacy Development Corporation (LLDC) – which operates Queen Elizabeth II Olympic Park – said the relaunch of the centre will be a major landmark as it prepares for the full opening of the southern section of the park, which is due to take place in early April.

The Aquatics Centre opening day will be marked by a number of special events and the first public swimming sessions. The centre has two 50m pools, a diving pool and a newly installed gym. Visitor ticket prices for the centre will start from £4.50 a session.

• Earlier this month, LLDC announced that it had appointed Balfour Beatty Group as lead contractor to carry out works to the QEII Park's Olympic Stadium.

The £154m contract will see Balfour Beatty lead the transformation of the Stadium into a world class, multi-use venue, delivering a lasting



The Zaha Hadid-designed Aquatics Centre will reopen on 1 March

sporting, cultural and commercial legacy in east London.

The stadium is set to host five matches during the 2015 Rugby World Cup and then reopen fully in 2016 when it becomes the new permanent home of West Ham United Football Club.

LLDC chief executive Dennis Hone said the opening of the south of the park will be "a huge moment in our vision to create a new heart of east London". Details: <http://lei.sr?a=m6X2T>

Swansea pool named performance centre

Swim Wales has chosen the Wales National Pool in Swansea to become the new Welsh Swimming National Performance Centre.

The pool will act as a hub for elite and performance swimming in Wales and will also cater for disability swimming. As part of developing the pool as a hub, renowned coach Billy Pye will join the coaching team.

As well as the elite squads, the Welsh Swimming National Performance Centre will also be home to Swansea University Swimming and City of Swansea Aquatics. The move has been jointly funded by British Swimming, Swim Wales and Sport Wales.

Martyn Woodroffe, Swim Wales national performance director, said: "I believe this will bring a better programme for elite and performance swimming in Wales.

"We can now invest directly in our own structure, which gives us greater flexibility and



The 50m pool at the Wales National Pool in Swansea opened in 2003

the opportunities of developing more Welsh swimming talent.

"We will also fit with the British pathway so we feed athletes into the Great Britain system and provide the best possible training and coaching for those capable of winning medals at the very highest level".

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=S7N4z>

Website to get workplaces sporty

A new, free website aims to encourage workplaces to become more active by competing against each other.

The new Workplace Challenge website enables people to log all of their physical activity, whether it's walking or cycling to work through to taking part in sport. Logged activities will be converted to points to enable workplaces to track their progress against national and local leader boards.

People will also be able to see a variety of stats including distance travelled, calories burned and CO₂ saved.

The new website will run in parallel with activities happening on the ground, including challenges, programmes and competitions, designed to motivate and inspire workplaces across the country. Sport England has supported the launch of the service via a £500,000



The scheme looks to make workplaces healthier through sport

grant through its Get Healthy, Get Into Sport initiative and the website is also supported by the British Heart Foundation.

Local Country Sports Partnerships will manage the platform and will ensure there are challenges, activities and competitions available offline to encourage people to stay active.

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=q2x9x>

Scunthorpe FC reveals stadium plans

Scunthorpe United Football Club (SUFC) has revealed plans for a new 12,000-capacity stadium in the town.

To be located close to the club's current Glanford Park ground, the stadium is set to be developed as part of a mixed-use project which will also include a 120-room hotel, a multi-use indoor arena, community sports pitches and a new transport hub for the town.

The initial designs and masterplan have been created by Frank Whittle Partnership.

As reported in *Sports Management* in September, SUFC chair Peter Swann has been keen to provide the club with a new home and relocate away from the 9,000-capacity Glanford Park.

Swann – an entrepreneur who was appointed SUFC chair in May 2013 – said his priority is to increase the club's commercial opportunities and to make operations more



An artist's impression of the new Scunthorpe stadium

economically sustainable, as well as move to a site which is more accessible and could potentially attract more supporters.

On the pitch, SUFC has experienced a tough couple of years and currently plays in League Two, the fourth tier of English professional football. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=n7r5x>

Sochi Games could be most expensive Olympics ever

This year's Winter Olympics in Sochi is likely to be the most expensive Olympic Games to date, with its Russian organisers thought to have spent as much as US\$50bn (£30.5bn, €36.6bn) on the two-week spectacle. The Games, which take place in the Black Sea coastal city, have

been funded by a mixture of public and private capital, with the overall expenditure raising concerns among some professionals.

It is believed the Games could cost as much as US\$10bn (£6.1bn, €7.3bn) more than the Beijing Olympics. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=q2x9x>



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Mintel: half of Britons tried to lose weight during 2013

More than half of Britons tried to lose weight at some point last year, according to new research from Mintel, which also highlights some of the key trends and tactics adopted by dieters.

The research found that two thirds of women in the UK claimed to have tried to lose weight in 2013, while four in ten men also admitted to having thoughts relating to personal weight management.

The findings also conveyed some interesting results in relation to how dieters chose to go about losing their desired amount of weight. It was found that exercise took priority over making changes to food or drink intake. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=n9A8H>



Plans will see 30 new centres roll out in three years

énergie preparing for launch of 30 new Irish clubs

Health club franchisor and operator énergie Group has secured a deal with Abbey International Finance that will see up to 30 new centres roll out in Ireland over the next three years as part of an aggressive expansion plan. Abbey has committed €3m (£2.5m, US\$4.1m) as part of an agreement that gives the finance house licence rights for the énergie Fitness, Fit4Less and énergie Fitness for Women brands in Ireland.

This week saw the opening of the first énergie Fitness Club in Cork, a 13,000 sq.ft (1,208m) facility that will serve as the brand's flagship club in the west of Ireland.

With a brand new design and range of features – two studios to accommodate a variety of group workout offerings, the Irish debut of the Bilt lateral weight training equipment – developed by tennis star Andre Agassi – and a pioneering salad bar concept from Dublin outfit Chopped – the latest addition to the énergie Group family is one that chair Jan Spaticchia is particularly proud of.

"It's a new breed of énergie Fitness Club, with a fresh new look and feel," Spaticchia said. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=T5N9V>

Wearable fitness tech going strong

A host of new and innovative wearable tech devices have been unveiled at the Consumer Electronics Show (CES) 2014.

CES 2014 showcases more than 20,000 new products to 152,000 attendees on an annual basis and a notable piece of health and fitness technology came from Intel, which revealed a pair of biometric earbuds that can track your heart rate (and display it on a companion app), keep tabs on your running and get power from your device's headphone jack.

Not to be outdone, LG unveiled a pair of earphones that measure your heartbeat in your ears while playing you music as you work out. These new headphones are coupled with LG's Lifeband Touch, which tracks your activity like a Nike Fuelband, but includes a touch-sensitive screen on the top of the band. It connects via Bluetooth to a phone and LG's fitness app, but will also display notifications for calls and text messages and control music playback on your smartphone.

Among the new products was the Tao Wellshell, which is designed to track your motion like everything else, but also to integrate a full workout. Based on isometrics, it measures your compressive power and produces precise workouts using your own muscle strength against you.



Lifeband touch was one innovation revealed at CES

Also introduced were Notch – a new modular approach to fitness tracking which links up to 10 sensors mounted around your body tracking individual motions – and the Sony SmartBand – a device that tracks your motions like any other activity monitor, but also logs things like the music you listen to and where you've been via the Lifelog Android smartphone app. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=Q8g8S>

Will LA fitness enter microgym market?

LA fitness CEO Martin Long is hinting at a possible move into the microgym sector, following the launch of the first £2.5m LAX brand premium health club in the heart of London.

Interviewed in January's *Health Club Management* magazine, Long suggests the operator could use its new LAX brand to stay in step with market trends. The inaugural LAX club opened in October 2013, offering premium services with a focus on short workouts, designed to suit the hectic schedules of the 5,000 city slickers working in the building above the club.

Discussing plans to open more LAX clubs, Long said: "There's also, within the design of the LAX brand and the structure of the offering, the option to launch a small studio format in line with the growing trend of the microgym."

Long added that the success of the new facility's intensive small group training sessions – LAX20 and LAX30 – could be transferred into smaller boutique locations, having become "very portable as a sub-brand." The LAX venture in St Botolph's Building, near Aldgate underground station, was the operator's first new opening in 10 years and marked a shift towards a new brand of health club, distinct from the LA fitness model.

Long says this was driven by the desire to start



Martin Long says the company must react to trends

LAX with a "blank canvas and bring it to life," revealing the move was also inspired by trends in other industries.

"It's similar to the hotel model, where you have different levels of branding within a portfolio," he notes. "If you were in an Intercontinental, for example, you wouldn't necessarily see branding for the group's other hotel chains in there. Similarly, there aren't many references to LA fitness at LAX." Details: <http://lei.sr?a=d3E4S>

Bannatyne comments sparks debate

Bannatyne Group chair Duncan Bannatyne has sparked a lively debate among industry leaders over the issue of membership discounts.

In his recent book, *Riding the Storm*, the entrepreneur – famous for his role on hit TV show *Dragons' Den* – claimed discounting at some of his clubs had attracted “problem members.” Bannatyne said dropping monthly fees from £42 to £29 had devalued the brand and changed the atmosphere at the clubs.

“More and more, people are trying it on, trying to sneak in a friend without paying, or making complaints in the hope of getting money back,” he said.

The comments have drawn a wide range of views from industry leaders, which are featured in the January edition of *Health Club Management* magazine.

Tim Baker, from market research company Touchstone Partners, disagrees with the 64-year-old Scotsman, saying he had never



Bannatyne thinks discounting has attracted “problem members”

heard of discounting attracting the ‘wrong sort of member.’ He said: “If gyms are finding they have to discount in order to attract members, it’s probably because they’re not offering the right product for the catchment. The maturation of the market into no frills low-cost gyms versus full-service premium clubs means there’s now less need to discount.”

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=Y2m5m>



Crash dieting could reverse the effects of diabetes

Scientists hail obesity crash-diet potential

Scientists may be on the verge of a major breakthrough in the battle against obesity, after trials found a short-term crash diet can reverse the effects of type 2 diabetes in a matter of weeks.

The research, conducted at Newcastle University, found that putting overweight diabetics on an 800-calorie per day diet, could restore natural insulin levels and return them to health.

Type 2 diabetes, which unlike type 1 is closely linked to obesity, is thought to be caused by excess fat around the pancreas and liver which reduces insulin production.

In healthy people, the liver should only contain around 2 per cent fat, whereas this can exceed 40 per cent in obese people.

A recent report found that obesity levels of adults in developing nations have almost quadrupled to an estimated one billion since 1980, putting millions more at risk of diabetes.

Professor Roy Taylor, director of Newcastle University’s magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) centre, who led the initial study, described the early findings as “enormously exciting,” according to *The Sunday Times*.

“We demonstrated that by changing calorie intake we could change fat levels in the liver and pancreas and return insulin production to normal,” he said.

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=s2a4U>

Dramatic rise in obesity in developing nations

Adult obesity levels in developing nations has almost quadrupled to an estimated one billion since 1980, according to a report from a UK think tank.

The Overseas Development Institute has said that one in three people worldwide are now overweight and urged governments to do more in shaping and influencing diets.

In the UK 64 per cent of adults are classed as being overweight or obese and the report has predicted a “huge increase” in heart attacks, strokes and the onset of diabetes.

Between 1980 and 2008, the number of adults classed as having a body mass index greater than 25 grew from 23 per cent to 34 per cent globally. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=v6M5C>



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Spa complex planned on former naval battery site

Plans to construct a hotel and spa complex on a former naval battery outpost in Plymouth, have been resurrected by Rotolok Holdings.

The £10m scheme designed by LHC Architecture – featuring a 3,322sq m (10,899ft) luxury hotel boasting 43 rooms and a spa overlooking Plymouth waterfront – was originally thrown out by local councillors last year, amid concerns over Drake Island's wildlife and a Grade II-listed building.

The island is named after famous seafarer Sir Francis Drake, who reached the 2.6ha outpost in 1580, after circumnavigating the globe. It was later used as a heavy gun installation during both world wars before falling into disrepair in the 1980s.

A consultation period on the revised plans will run until 4 February. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=w4B5W>



Bevan praised the advertising campaign's success

SpaFinder ventures into TV with advertising campaign

The European division of SpaFinder Wellness 365 has reported a 100 per cent increase in search engine traffic and sales volume of its gift cards – both in-store and online – thanks to a TV ad campaign in the lead up to Christmas. The company is one of the first in the spa sector to invest in TV promotion.

"TV advertising isn't cheap," John Bevan, CEO Europe for SpaFinder, said, "but it allows close measurement of the ROI."

Running from 2-24 December, SpaFinder's UK advert featured on Channel 4 Digital and some Sky channels, such as Sky Living, with media planning by agencies within the OMG Group. It ran in conjunction with localised versions in the US and Canada.

Targeting men and women aged 25-55 in the lucrative festive season, the advert also promoted SpaFinder's search engine. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=S2y5q>

2014 top spa trends revealed

Wired wellness, urban retreats, hot springs and even death are among the top themes likely to shape the spa market in 2014, according to the eleventh edition of the annual *Top 10 Global Spa and Wellness Trends Forecast 2014* from Spafinder Wellness 365.

The report is authored by Spafinder Wellness president Susie Ellis and developed by company research analysts. It's based on ongoing surveys with spa and wellness businesses and stakeholders around the globe.

According to Ellis, the potential resurgence of the hot springs market is one of the major areas to look out for.

"I really think hot springs are making a comeback," she said. "Virtually every country in the world has hot springs and they're often much less expensive to access, bringing spa concepts to a much wider audience."

Other trends identified by the report include death and the potential for spas to address customers' needs during challenging times. For Ellis, the chief reason for its inclusion is that Baby Boomers – a large spa-going demographic – are starting to confront their mortality.

"It sounds strange, but spas have always been linked to life transformations and transitions, so death is a natural progression," she said. "We're also beginning to see spa offerings moving into hospitals and assisted living facilities, allowing ageing populations to enjoy relaxation and comfort in their final years."



Spafinder Wellness has identified the year's top trends

The top 10 spa trends as identified by Ellis for 2014 have been called:

- Healthy Hotels 2.0
- Wired Wellness
- Hot Springs Heat Up
- Suspending Gravity
- Ferocious Fitness
- "Natural" Beauty Meets Social Media
- Aromatherapy: Scent With Intent
- Wellness Retreats Rise...& Urbanise
- Death & Spas
- Top 10 Surprising Spa Destinations

The full 75-page report, which includes a full analysis of factors influencing and explaining each trend and examples of early trend adopters, can be downloaded here: <http://www.spafinder.co.uk/trends2014>

Hartman publishes wellness consumer data

The Hartman Group has released statistics which show consumer involvement in health and wellness.

The study has revealed that consumers think, live and shop differently depending on where they are 'within the world of health and wellness'.

The 'Hartman World Model' shows intensity of engagement based on world activities.

The core consumer – the most intensely involved in health and wellness – make up 13 per cent of the consumer audience and are considered to be early adopters, trendsetters and evangelists.

The mid-level consumer is not as committed as the core consumer, but is key in the success of any potential trend, adopting new ideas launched from the core. This group makes up 62 per cent of wellness consumers.



The 'Hartman World Model' shows intensity of engagement in wellness

The third group is the periphery consumer who is the least involved in health and wellness. Making up 25 per cent of wellness consumers, these people typically understand that they should eat well and exercise, even if it's not something they act on consistently. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=t5h8x>

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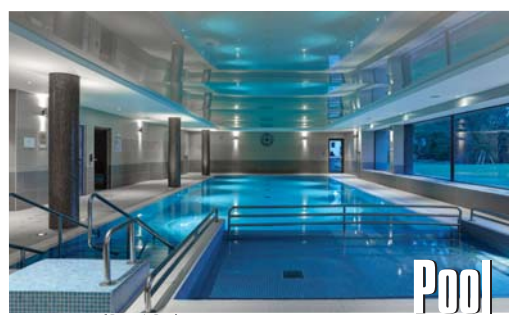


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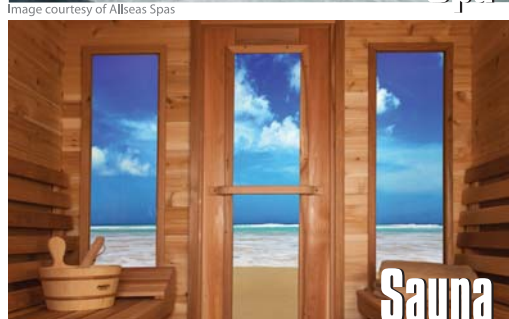
The CPO® certification program will be available to Pool & Spa visitors in a blended format where students are guided through the handbook using the Pool Operator Primer online course, followed by a day of classes held on Day 1 of the Expo (20th February 2014). This fusion course is a fast-track route to gaining the sought after CPO® certification.



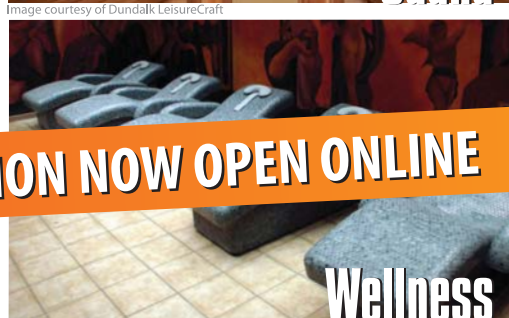
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PETER DUCKER
is chief executive
officer of the Institute
of Hospitality

Every year the Institute of Hospitality organises a student debating competition known as Passion 4 Hospitality. Over the years, the event has grown and expanded and Passion 4 Hospitality 2014 will include a careers fair and competition to run a virtual hotel.

I recently spoke to Simrian Kaur who was a runner-up with the London Metropolitan University team last year. She graduated last summer and is now working in food-service for BaxterStorey in a job that she “really loves”. I was very pleased to learn that she got her position as a direct result of participating in our Passion 4 Hospitality debating competition.

Having worked through university, Simrian had a choice of more than one graduate position when she left, but she chose BaxterStorey because of what she had learned during Passion 4 Hospitality.

Before attending the debate, Simrian had researched BaxterStorey and was impressed. She also knew who was judging the competition and knew that one judge was a BaxterStorey manager.

“P4H was a huge platform and I knew what I wanted to get out of it. I wanted to get a real understanding of BaxterStorey. A website can only tell you so much, but a person who works for the company can tell you much more about what it’s really like day-to-day,” she said.

As a result of meeting the BaxterStorey manager during the debate, Simrian was offered a six-week trial as part of BaxterStorey’s graduate management scheme which she “absolutely loved” and now she is a graduate trainee manager and has already worked at two central London sites.

Simrian’s experience demonstrates that networking and participating in industry events are still the best way of making personal contacts within your industry and bringing you into contact with industry professionals.

No matter how technology-dependent communications have become, and how useful social media is, at the end of the day a website can, indeed, only tell you so much. Getting out and networking at industry events can take you and your career much further.

HOTELS

Hotel transactions up 66 per cent

The buying and selling of hotels across the UK has increased by two-thirds in 2013, according to business advisory firm Deloitte.

Activity totalled around £800m in the second half of 2013 – 66 per cent higher compared with numbers from the second half of 2012.

The total transaction volume for 2013 passed the £3bn mark, reaching a six-year high with London dominating in terms of single asset deals, with 75 per cent of deals coming from the capital.

Notable transactions included the £90m debt disposal of the Radisson Blu Portman to London & Regional and the £88m deal between private equity firm Carlyle Group and Shiva Hotels for the redevelopment of Millennium Bridge House.

Activity outside London remained predominantly driven by distressed sales and included two disposals in York for a total of £24m (Park Inn and Ibis) as well as the acquisition of the Novotel Cardiff for £12m by the Greater Manchester Pension Fund.



London has been a hotbed for hotel purchases throughout 2014

Transactions for 2014 have also started strongly, with the sale of the London Edition – which closed in January – and further deals are expected to be completed early this year, including the De Vere Venues.

Sovereign wealth funds, specialised investment groups and private equity will remain the dominant buyers in 2014 and Deloitte predicts a continued influx of foreign investment into London throughout the year.
Details: <http://lei.sr?a=Y2k2B>

IHG argues for online hospitality regulations

Richard Solomons, chief executive of InterContinental Hotels Group has said that fast-growing internet companies should be subject to the same regulations as regular firms.

Speaking to *The Telegraph*, Solomons said there was a “slight naivety” about online businesses and governments should treat internet firms – many of which are developing into global companies – in “exactly the same way” as traditional companies.

Solomons said that traditional hotel firms, which are often far bigger employers than internet ventures, are currently at a disadvantage to fast-growing internet companies such as Airbnb – the accommodation website with financial backers including actor Ashton Kutcher – as one example where online firms were subject to different rules.

Airbnb allows people to rent out spare rooms to visitors and Solomons raised issues such as fire safety, food safety, security and cleanliness



Online ventures have different regulations to traditional companies

– areas where hoteliers are required to meet basic standards.

“If you are paying somebody for a service and that service is sold as a major operation, it’s becoming a big business then why would different standards apply?” said Solomons. “Governance and regulation needs to treat online businesses the same way as existing businesses so that existing businesses are not put at a disadvantage.”
Details: <http://lei.sr?a=z7W4W>

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Food tourism the key for Grimsby

Fish producers in Grimsby have called on the local council and property owners to renovate the area around the region's famed smoke houses to stop the town from missing out on the chance of becoming a destination for food tourism.

Producers in the region believe the town is missing out on millions of pounds, given that Grimsby smoked fish was handed a Protected Geographical Indication (PGI) status by the European Commission back in 2009.

Local workers and businesses believe it would be beneficial for the council and dock owners to invest in developing the area to house visitor attractions, shops, restaurants and hotels to boost the local economy.

"Traditional smoked fish is in such demand now by top chefs because these days it is used to add flavour to a whole range of seafood dishes," said Richard Enderby, chair of the Grimsby Traditional Fish Smokers Group.

"Grimsby has always been a destination for the real foodie but perhaps not your Hyacinth Bouquets' looking for something to impress their guests at a swanky dinner party."

He said the derelict buildings flanking Grimsby's traditional smokehouses "could be utilised to showcase the 150-year-old process of fish smoking in Grimsby, either by moving



PGI products are thought to generate annual sales of £1bn

parts of the process to the empty buildings to make room for viewing areas or to use the empty buildings as shops or restaurants featuring smoked fish and other seafood."

North East Lincolnshire Council has stated that it is keen to support local food tourism, with Labour councillor Mick Burnett saying he was happy to talk with local producers about the promotion of the area, revealing that the council wants the "maximum amount of tourism in the borough of North East Lincolnshire".

More than 40 food and drink products have been given a PGI status, with the UK Protected Food Names Association stating that PGI products generate annual sales of around £1bn. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=R6x5Q>

Where have all the day visitors gone?



KURT JANSON
is policy director of
Tourism Alliance

The final results from the three major 2013 tourism surveys (inbound visitors, domestic tourists and day visitors) are starting to filter through the system. And the results are uneven to say the least.

For inbound visitors, the results up to the end of November are exceptional. The UK has received 5 per cent more overseas visitors who have spent 12 per cent more. This equates to an additional £2.2bn in export earnings for the UK economy – enough to create over 40,000 new jobs.

On the domestic side, the number of trips through to the beginning of October was the same at last year, while expenditure was marginally up at 1 per cent. While this is disappointing considering the very good weather over the summer period and the expected rebound from people being glued to their TV watching the Olympics last year, this static growth has to be viewed in the context of 2013 being the fifth year in a row that inflation exceeded wage increases.

The real problem, however, comes when we look at day visitor numbers and expenditure. Day visitor expenditure makes up over 40 per cent of all tourism-related expenditure and is therefore very important to the overall health of the industry. At the start of 2013, the theory was that while decreasing discretionary expenditure would put pressure on overnight domestic tourism expenditure, people would compensate by taking more day visits as this removes the major costs of accommodation and evening meals.

However, this seems not to be the case. As of the end of November, day visitor numbers were down 15 per cent (that's 238m less visits) while expenditure was down by 12 per cent (£6.1bn). Once the December figures are available next month, day visitor expenditure for 2013 could be down by almost £7bn over 2012. This is a considerable decrease – the equivalent of losing more than 120,000 jobs.

What makes matters worse is that there is no solid explanation for such a dramatic fall in day visitor numbers and expenditure. It's a conundrum which needs to be resolved urgently.

Solid growth seen in Irish tourist numbers

The Irish Tourist Industry Confederation's (ITIC) review of 2013 reveals that visitor arrivals were up 6 per cent to nearly seven million, the best year since 2009.

A big contributor to the figures was The Gathering and its year-long programme of events, which – with a 26 per cent increase in transatlantic air services – attracted more than one million visitors from the US, a record.

Visits from the UK showed an increase for the first time in several years, to 2.9 million, while 2.5 million people came from mainland Europe and a further 400,000 from elsewhere.

The increased numbers meant that tourism businesses were able to create 15,000 additional jobs over the past two years, while earnings from those visitors were up 13 per cent to €3.3bn (£2.7bn) – tourists were seen to be spending more and staying longer.

ITIC says that Irish government moves to maintain the 9 per cent VAT rate on tourism services and the suspension of the Air Travel Tax were welcome measures which were helping to restore the country's competitiveness.



Tourism Ireland is targeting growth of 4 per cent in 2014

Elsewhere, The Wild Atlantic Way, a major new touring route along the western seaboard first proposed by ITIC in its 2011 report *New Directions for Tourism in The West*, has been launched by Fáilte Ireland.

Looking ahead, Tourism Ireland is targeting growth of 4 per cent in visitor arrivals in 2014, a figure which ITIC believes may prove to be conservative if Ireland can continue to capture an increasing share of leisure traffic from the improving economies in most main source markets. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=b2G2s>

Construction work on V&A Dundee to start in August

Work on the new V&A museum planned for Dundee, Scotland is expected to start in August this year, following the award of a £9.2m Heritage Lottery Fund grant. The Scottish Government has already pledged £15m to the project and further sources of funding are being explored.

The £45m project, featuring a distinctive bow-shaped design jutting into the River Tay, is to be built on the site of the city's former Olympia swimming pool as an anchor for Dundee's £1bn Waterfront regeneration scheme. Opening is scheduled for early 2017.

V&A at Dundee – designed by Japanese architects Kengo Kuma & Associates in partnership with Scottish practice Cre8architecture – will have more than 1,700sq m (18,300sq ft) of flexible gallery space, with one of the largest dedicated museum-standard exhibition spaces in Scotland. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=N8M3v>



Redevelopment costs have increased by £5m

Imperial War Museum London to close until July

London's Imperial War Museum has closed to visitors until July 2014 after ongoing building work unexpectedly revealed major infrastructure issues.

The museum reopened in July last year after being closed in the first half of 2013 for a full-scale refurbishment, but after work commenced on the infrastructure of the building, it was discovered a number of systems – including electrics, air conditioning and media cabling – needed a substantial upgrade.

The initial redevelopment costs were budgeted at £35m, but that has now been increased to £40m.

"We continue to actively fundraise and have now secured £36.7m," said a spokesperson for the museum. "The project is fully affordable and we are confident that we will raise the remaining £3.3m from our sponsors."

The museum will reopen in July – one month before the official start of the First World War centenary commemorations.

Domestic numbers low for UK attractions

Despite booming visitor numbers from abroad for the UK's top attractions, a recent YouGov survey has revealed that the majority of adults in Britain have not visited the country's top attractions with one in six respondents stating they had not visited any major UK attractions.

The survey, commissioned by UK holiday operator Sykes Cottages, sampled 2,105 adults and revealed that just 35 per cent of survey respondents had visited Stonehenge in Wiltshire.

Meanwhile, only 38 per cent of people living in the UK have visited Buckingham Palace in the nation's capital.

Only 21 per cent have made the journey to Hadrian's Wall in Cumbria and just 20 per cent had travelled to Caernarfon Castle in Wales.

The major attractions least visited by UK residents were the Royal Armouries – National Museum of Arms and Armour in Leeds (9 per cent) and Durham Cathedral in County Durham (16 per cent).



Buckingham Palace is the number one destination for overseas tourists

The top five list of attractions and the percentage of UK adults who have visited them is:

- Buckingham Palace (38 per cent)
- Edinburgh Castle (38 per cent)
- Stonehenge (35 per cent)
- The National Gallery in London (33 per cent)
- Roman Baths in Bath (29 per cent)
- Eden Project (21 per cent)

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=M4e7R>

Merlin unveils Angry Birds 4D attraction plans

Merlin Entertainments has today announced a major new deal to create the world's first Angry Birds 4D theme park experience.

The creative partnership with the developer of the mobile app phenomenon, Finnish Rovio Entertainment, will see a 4,000sq m (43,000sq ft) fully-themed Angry Birds area open at the UK's Thorpe Park in May 2014.

Work is already underway on the new attraction, which will be centred around the 4D experience and is set to include an exclusive 10-minute Angry Birds animated film, developed jointly by Rovio and top 4D animators 3DBA.

Second only to Disney as the world's largest visitor attraction operator, Merlin will use its experience operating Legoland – as well as the soon to be opened Cbeebies Land at Alton Towers – to harness the potential of the tie-up with the lucrative intellectual property.

With more than two billion downloads of its original phone app, nine spin-off games and a 2016 feature film in the pipeline, Angry Birds is a franchise with huge potential for integration.

A spokesperson for Merlin said discussions



A 10-minute film will be the highlight of the attraction

are also underway over potential future collaborations. "It's essential for us that we find partners with the right fit for our own brand," she said. "With their company outlooks and similar target audiences, Thorpe Park and Angry Birds are definitely a good match for Merlin."

Mark Fisher, chief development officer for Merlin, added: "We see this as a long-term strategic partnership with great benefits to both parties. Thorpe Park Resort is ideal for Angry Birds 4D." Details: <http://lei.sr?a=N8V8X>



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Feethams Leisure will feature a new cinema

Darlington leisure scheme gets the go-ahead

Darlington Borough Council has granted planning permission for the go-ahead of Feethams Leisure, a £30m redevelopment project in the town centre.

The scheme, which will create around 500 new jobs and regenerate a 1.9 acre former bus station site, will be anchored by a nine-screen multiplex Vue cinema and include an 80-bed Premier Inn.

Also included are a number of bars, retail units and restaurants, with outlets of both Nandos and Prezzo included amongst the latter. Two further restaurant units are under offer to other - as yet unspecified - national brands. Property development and investment group, Terrace Hill hopes to commence work during the middle of this year, with completion expected by Q3 2015. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=6v9Z3>

£20m Bridlington Leisure redevelopment plans start

Work is expected to start on the £20m redevelopment of a multipurpose leisure facility in Bridlington, following plans put forward by East Riding of Yorkshire Council.

BAM Construction will be responsible for the build project, as the council seeks to redevelop its ageing Leisure World facility, with the new centre expected to be finished by autumn 2015.

A new sports centre is to be home to a six-lane, 25m swimming pool, which will be accompanied by a smaller learner pool, a freeform pool with water features, two water slides and swimming spectator seating for 150 people.

The centre will also feature a health suite with a steamroom, sauna, spa pool, showers and foot spa, with guests being able to make the most of expert advice within dedicated health and wellbeing consulting space. The council has also struck a deal with Sport England and Total Swimming, which has seen the installation of an Olympic Legacy Pool at its Bridlington Sports Centre facility. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=D8M3r>

Brentford FC Stadium plans move forward

Willmott Dixon has been named the preferred development partner by Brentford Football Club under plans for a new 20,000-seat stadium and 910 homes in west London. The new stadium plans will see Brentford move from its current home of Griffin Park - the club's home since 1904 - and move to the new location on Lionel Road South.

The new homes will be built adjacent to the new stadium and on the site of the club's current home after it has been demolished.

The surrounding area will also be regenerated with improvements made to the local environment and infrastructure. Plans are for the stadium to be completed in time for the 2016/17 football season while the homes will be built over a six-year period. The project was masterplanned by FaulknerBrowns architects, while AFLS+P did the stadium design.



The plans would see Brentford move from their home of 110 years

Planning consent for the Brentford development was given the green light in December 2013 by the London Borough of Hounslow.

It has not, however, yet been given the final confirmation and approval by the mayor of London Boris Johnson and communities secretary Eric Pickles. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=U7N8x>

Foster unveils £220m SkyCycle plans

Plans have been unveiled for a progressive SkyCycle network, designed to give cyclists a dedicated commuter route, as its developers seek to transform cycle transport in London.

Designed by Norman Foster + Partners with Exterior Architecture and Space Syntax, the 135-mile network of routes is planned for construction above existing suburban railway lines.

The plans come in the wake of a number of deaths of cyclists experienced on the capital's roads, with the project's proposers also seeking to improve journey times and decrease congestion, as London looks to manage population growth of 12 per cent in the next decade.

The first four-mile stretch of the route would potentially run from east London through to Liverpool Street at a cost of £220m, while nine other routes are also proposed along the elevated network. The project's developers believe that the SkyCycle will provide over 220 kilometers of car-free cycle space, which will incorporate over 200 entrance points for cyclists.



The SkyCycle network will transform London's rail networks

It is believed that each route could accommodate 12,000 cyclists each hour, with the network providing easy access to the cycling corridor for 5.8 million people.

The proposals also suggest that cycling times could be reduced by as much as 29 minutes, as the routes spread over an area of 20-foot wide decks and follow natural contours.

"SkyCycle is a lateral approach to finding space in a congested city," said Foster. "By using the corridors above the suburban railways, we could create a world-class network of safe cycle routes." Details: <http://lei.sr?a=s6b9K>

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Castlereagh Borough Council wishes to invite expressions of interest from operators who wish to be considered for the fitting out and operation of a municipal gymnasium and fitness centre within a future new leisure facility located on the outskirts of Belfast.

About the Facility

The facility will be part of an exciting project to rebuild Dundonald International Ice Bowl, which has been one of the leading attractions in Northern Ireland over the last 27 years. The proposed plans will extend the range of existing services to create a unique facility with leisure, entertainment and wellbeing services under one roof.

To submit an Expression of Interest, please email DIBTender@castlereagh.gov.uk by **12 noon on Friday 28th February 2014**. Please mark the subject line of your email "DIB Municipal Gymnasium and Fitness Centre." The information supplied should include a contact name, organisation name, full postal address, email and telephone contact details.

Mr S Reid,
Chief Executive,
Castlereagh Borough Council



Castlereagh
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INVITATION TO LET BY FORMAL TENDER FOR THE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF A NINE HOLE, PAR 3, GOLF COURSE IN OAKWOOD PARK.

The London Borough of Enfield is seeking a suitably qualified and experienced Operator to tender for a concession to operate and maintain an existing Nine Hole, Par 3 Golf Course in Oakwood Park, Enfield, North London. Specific information will be available within the tender documentation.

The Park itself has been awarded Green Flag status and is used by a wide variety of ages with different interests. The Park is a popular destination with good pedestrian access and excellent transport links (both buses and trains). The London Underground Piccadilly Line runs from Kings Cross and Central London and stops at Oakwood Station which is just a short walk away.

The successful tenderer shall operate and maintain the Premises under a management agreement for a period of three (3) years (with the Authority's option to extend the agreement in increments of one year up to a maximum period of two (2) years).

DEADLINE FOR TENDER SUBMISSIONS IS 12 Noon, 19th February 2014.

For further information or to register your interest, please visit the London Tenders Portal on www.londontenders.org

Click on current opportunities, drop down menu choose – London Borough of Enfield, click on search, and select the relevant contract.

All tender submissions to be submitted via the London Tender Portal as detailed above.

For general queries, call Tina Heather on 020 8379 3313 or email tina.heather@enfield.gov.uk

The Council is not obligated to accept any proposal and may cancel this procurement exercise at any stage.

www.enfield.gov.uk





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Premier launches online PT business course

Premier Training International has joined forces with the Association of Accounting Technicians (AAT) to create an online course focusing on the business aspects of personal training.

Premier, which specialises in providing high quality education for the health and fitness industry, is targeting the “running a successful PT business” course at graduates of Premier courses and industry professionals who are currently running or aspiring to run their own personal training business.

The UK course will explore subjects such as VAT, cashflow and budgeting to provide participants with the “sound business knowledge” needed to run a personal training company.

Debra Stuart, CEO of Premier Global, said: “We know more and more people are keen to develop their knowledge, skills and expertise in running a successful PT business. The new course offers graduates the core financial knowledge to really control and grow their business.”



The course will teach students the business aspects of personal training

The qualification is nationally accredited through Active IQ and fully recognised by employers and the Register of Exercise Professionals (REPs).

“With many graduates already committed to client appointments and class instruction, this flexible online course offers the perfect learning solution,” Stuart added.

“It allows learners to progressively advance their individual careers and business, without impacting upon the client base and work that they already have.” Details: <http://lei.sr?a=4f3H9>

InstructAbility rolls out new programmes

InstructAbility, an award winning training programme providing fitness industry training for people with disabilities, has announced a raft of new courses for 2014.

Created by spinal cord injury charity, Aspire and YMCAfit, the programme offers participants the opportunity to gain a level 2 gym instructor qualification and gives them support to find a job in the fitness industry.

The current programme – open to any disabled people aged 16 and upwards – also includes a CYQ Level 3 Exercise & Disability module which qualifies fitness instructors to work with disabled clients.

So far, successful graduates have involved people with spinal cord injury, spina bifida, cerebral palsy, limb loss, depression and loss of function caused by stroke or brain injury.

“We want to dispel the idea that you have to be a 20-something with ripped muscles and who looks good in Lycra to work in the fitness



InstructAbility courses will run across the south of England during 2014

industry,” says Hilary Farmiloe, InstructAbility national project manager.

“By widening the demographic of the workforce, we can widen the range of people who feel comfortable to come in and use the gym.”

Students come from a range of backgrounds, including those who have lost jobs due to their impairment, as well as injured service personnel and those injured through sport or who are competing in para sport/ Paralympics.

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=c5m4Z>



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www.crealy.co.uk



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At Polin, every member contributes to and shares in our successes. Every member of our team adds value to our products and services. We invite you to explore our career opportunities.

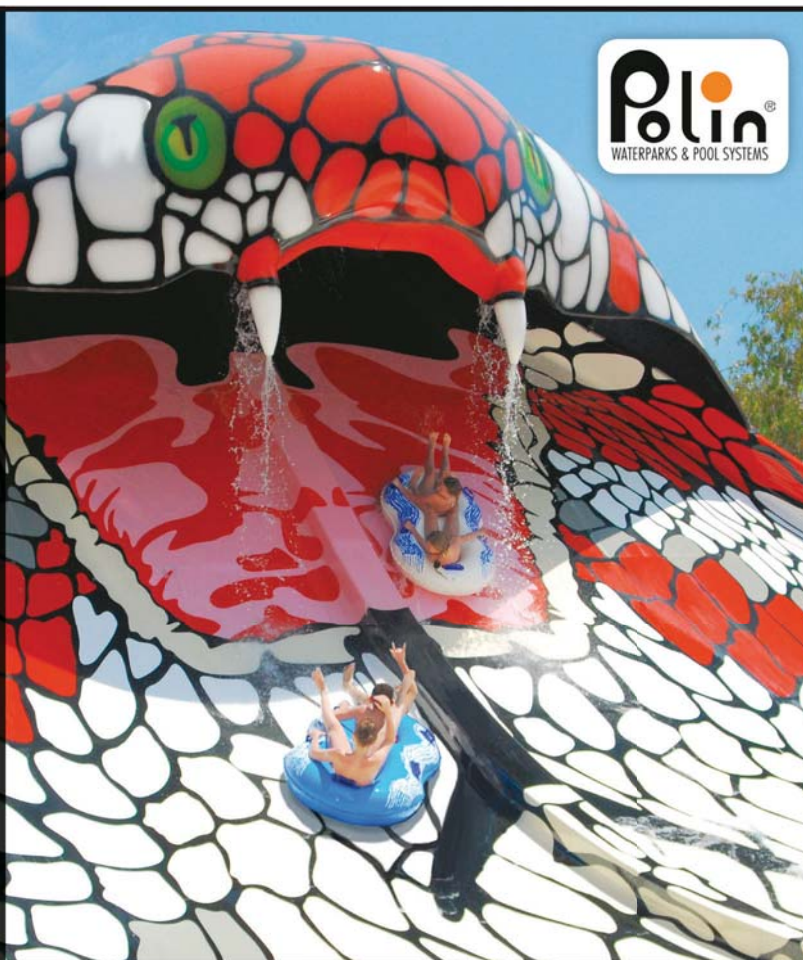
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Company: Parkwood Leisure
Location: Exeter, UK

Recreation Assistant

Company: GLL
Location: London Aquatics Centre,
Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, UK

Sales and Fitness Manager

Company: Parkwood Leisure
Location: Buckinghamshire, UK

Front of House Receptionist

Company: Everyone Active
Location: North Wembley, UK

Group Exercise Lead

Company: GLL
Location: Lambeth, UK

Exercise Physiologist

Company: Speedflex
Location: Leeds, UK

Centre Manager

Company: Speedflex
Location: Leeds, UK

Head Trainer

Company: Speedflex
Location: Leeds, UK

Sales and Membership Manager

Company: Speedflex
Location: Leeds, UK

Front of House Receptionist

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Harrow Leisure Centre

Membership Consultant

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Staines Upon Thames, UK

Leisure Club Manager

Company: 3d Leisure
Location: Stourport, UK

Personal Trainer

Company: Pure Gym Limited
Location: Various locations, UK

Full Time Membership

Consultant
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Stratford Upon Avon, UK

Receptionist Vacancies

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Location: Bristol, UK

Assistant General Manager

Company: The Gym Group
Location: Various locations, UK

Duty Manager

Company: Parkwood Leisure
Location: Barnstaple, UK

Sales Advisor

Company: GLL
Location: Crystal Palace National
Sports Centre, UK

Assistant Customer

Service Advisor
Company: GLL
Location: Greenwich, UK

Fitness Instructor

Company: GLL
Location: City of Westminster, UK

Assistant Fitness Instructor

Company: GLL
Location: Ealing, UK

Fitness Instructor

Company: GLL
Location: West Oxfordshire, UK

Fitness Instructor

Company: GLL
Location: South Oxfordshire, UK

Catering Manager

Company: Parkwood Leisure
Location: Cardiff, UK

Centre Manager

Company: Parkwood Leisure
Location: Newbury, UK

Personal Trainer - Freelance

Company: Harrow School
Location: London, UK

Membership Advisor

Company: Parkwood Leisure
Location: Nottinghamshire, UK

Swimming Teachers

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Wembley, London, UK

Fixed Term Sales Advisor

Company: GLL
Location: Barnet Copthall, UK

Assistant Gym Manager

Company: Pure Gym Limited
Location: Various locations, UK

Gym Manager

Company: Pure Gym Limited
Location: Various locations, UK

Fitness Equipment Sales Advisor

Company: Fitness Superstore
Location: Frimley, Surrey, UK

Customer Service Advisor

Company: GLL
Location: City of Westminster, UK

Health And Fitness Manager

Company: YMCA London
Location: Kingston upon Thames, UK

Gymnastic and Trampoline coaches

Company: Everyone Active
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Leisure Attendant

Company: Brio Leisure (Cheshire
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Customer Service

Assistant - Full Time
Company: Aberdeen Sports Village
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Administration Manager

Company: GLL
Location: Chelsea Sports Centre, UK

Duty Leisure Manager

Company: Live Active Leisure
Location: Perth, UK

Duty Manager

Company: Parkwood Leisure
Location: Oxfordshire, UK

Fitness Motivator

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Daventry, UK

Fitness Instructor

Company: GLL
Location: York, UK

Membership Consultants

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Location: Eston / Saltburn / Loftus

General Manager

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Ashfield, UK

Trainee Duty Manager

Company: Parkwood Leisure
Location: Barnstaple, UK

Head of Business

Development
Company: Parkwood Leisure
Location: Worcester, UK

General Managers

Company: The Gym Group
Location: Various locations, UK

Swimming Teacher

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Studley Leisure Centre

Personal Trainers

Company: The Gym Group
Location: Various locations, UK

Leisure Centre Manager

Company: Wiltshire Council
Location: Marlborough, UK

Membership Sales Consultant

Company: Énergie Group
Location: Forest Hill, UK

Full Time/Part Time Instructors

Company: Kieser Training
Location: London, UK

Part-Time Health and Fitness Advisor

Company: University of Essex
Location: Southend, UK

Health and Fitness Manager

Company: Loughborough University
Location: Loughborough, UK

Marketing Coordinator

Company: Tone Leisure
Location: Taunton, UK

Sports Centre Manager

- Maternity Cover
Company: Motcombe Park Sports
Location: North Dorset, UK

Community Sports Activator

Company: Trust Thamesmead
Location: London SE28, UK

Duty Manager

Company: Parkwood Leisure
Location: Oxfordshire, UK

Sales Adviser

Company: Soll Leisure
Location: Didcot, Oxfordshire, UK

Membership Sales Advisor

Company: Branston Golf & Country
Location: Burton upon Trent, UK

Lifeguard

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Studley, Warwickshire, UK

Duty Manager

Company: Soll Leisure
Location: Didcot, Oxfordshire, UK

Sales Manager

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Saltburn-by-the-Sea, UK

Cluster Manager

Company: Soll Leisure
Location: Oxfordshire and Hampshire

Centre Manager

Company: Parkwood Leisure
Location: Portsmouth, UK

Health and Fitness Manager

Company: Sentinel Leisure Trust
Location: Lowestoft, UK

Duty Manager

Company: Parkwood Leisure
Location: Solihull, UK

Part Time Lifeguard

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Shipston on Stour, UK-

Freelance Personal Trainer

Company: Everyone Active
Location: North Wembley, London

Full Time Lifeguard

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Stratford Upon Avon, UK

Cafe Assistant

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Stratford upon Avon, UK

Full Time Sports Attendant

Company: Aberdeen Sports Village
Location: Aberdeen, UK

Fitness Instructor (Part Time)

Company: 3d Leisure
Location: Central London, UK

Recreation Assistants

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Fareham, UK

Personal Trainer

Company: Matt Roberts
Location: Belgravia, UK

Membership Sales Advisor

Company: énergie group
Location: Harrow, UK

Front of House Receptionist

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Ealing, Brent & Harrow, UK

Lifeguard/Swimming Teacher

Company: Stonyhurst College
Location: Stonyhurst, Clitheroe, UK

Chief Executive Officer

Company: Celtic Leisure
Location: Neath Port Talbot, Wales

Fitness Instructor

Company: 3d Leisure
Location: London, UK

Community Sport Officer

Company: GLL
Location: Walthamstow, UK

Group Exercise Instructor

- Water Workout
Company: GLL
Location: London Borough of Barnet

Park Manager

Company: Bounce UK
Location: Milton Keynes, UK

Gymnastics Coach

Company: GLL
Location: Botwell Leisure Centre, Hillingdon, UK

Fitness Apprentice

Company: énergie group
Location: Wilmslow, UK

Gymnastics Coaches

Company: GLL
Location: Dormers Leisure Centre, Ealing

Health Club and Spa Manager

Company: 3d Leisure
Location: London Docklands, UK

Assistant Director of

Sport: Performance
Company: University of Nottingham
Location: Nottingham, UK

Duty Manager

Company: Valley Leisure Ltd
Location: andover, UK

Assistant Manager

Company: 3d Leisure
Location: Cheltenham, UK

Customer Service Advisor

Company: GLL
Location: London Borough of Barnet

Massage Therapist

Company: Motive8 Group Ltd
Location: Kew, UK

Gym and Spa Operative

Company: Motive8 Group Ltd
Location: London, UK

Freelance Personal Trainer

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Northolt, UK

Zumba Instructor

Company: énergie group
Location: Beckenham, UK

Group Exercise Instructor

Company: GLL
Location: London Borough of Barnet

Area Sales Managers

Company: Fitness Systems
Location: Nationwide, UK

Group Exercise Instructor

Company: GLL
Location: London Borough of Barnet

Freelance Personal Trainer

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Watford, UK

Fitness Instructor (part time)

Company: 3d Leisure
Location: Calne, UK

Personal Trainer

Company: énergie group
Location: Oxfordshire/Bucks/Herts

Tutors and Assessors

Company: The Fitness Collective
Location: Middle East, UAE

Recreation Assistant

Company: Parkwood Leisure
Location: Bristol, UK

Fitness & Class Instructors

Company: énergie group
Location: Eastbourne, UK

Membership Sales Consultant

Company: énergie group
Location: Oxfordshire/Bucks/Herts

General Manager

Company: Parkwood Leisure
Location: Cardiff, UK

General Manager

Company: Everyone Active
Location: Shipston On Stour, UK

Group Exercise Instructors

Company: énergie group
Location: Oxfordshire/Bucks/Herts

Elite Personal Trainer/ Lifestyle Coach

Company: Profile Health & Fitness
Location: Malta

General Managers

Company: truGym
Location: Various, UK

Sales and Marketing Manager

Company: Xercise 4 Less
Location: Nationwide, UK

Personal Trainer

Company: Xercise 4 Less
Location: Nationwide, UK

Operations Manager

Company: Xercise 4 Less
Location: Nationwide, UK

Membership Consultant

Company: Xercise 4 Less
Location: Nationwide, UK

Assistant Manager

Company: NRG Gym
Location: Gravesend, Kent

Receptionist

Company: Xercise 4 Less
Location: Nationwide, UK

Personal Trainer

Company: Logic Trainers
Location: Nationwide, UK

Marketing Executive

Company: Polin Waterparks
Location: Turkey

Senior Spa Therapist

Company: Dorchester Collection
Location: London, UK

Spa Receptionist

Company: Dorchester Collection
Location: London, UK

Senior Spa Receptionist

Company: Dorchester Collection
Location: London, UK

Business Development Manager

Company: VOYA Products Ltd
Location: UK wide, UK

General Manager

Company: Kamalaya Wellness
Sanctuary & Holistic Spa
Location: Koh Samui

General Manager

Company: Parkwood Leisure
Location: Weston-super-Mare, UK

Visitor Experience Manager

Company: RNLI
Location: Poole and Ipswich, UK

Engineer, Product Development

Company: Polin Waterparks
Location: Turkey

Senior Mechanical/Civil Engineer

Company: Polin Waterparks
Location: Turkey

Senior Project Engineer

Company: Polin Waterparks
Location: Turkey

Designer, Theming

Company: Polin Waterparks
Location: Turkey

Regional Sales Manager

Company: Polin Waterparks
Location: Turkey

Head of Commercial

Company: The Royal British Legion
Location: Staffordshire, UK

Events Manager

Company: English Heritage
Location: Wrest Park, Bedfordshire,

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FIFA denies World Cup date change

Continued from front cover

Jim Boyce, one of FIFA's vice-presidents, has expressed his shock at Jerome Valcke's announcement that the World Cup in Qatar in 2022 will be moved from the traditional summer date.

"It absolutely, 100 per cent, has not been decided as far as the executive committee is concerned," said Boyce, speaking to Sky Sports News. "It was agreed all the stakeholders should meet, all the stakeholders should have an input and then the decision would be made, and that decision as far as I understand will not be taken until the end of 2014 or the March executive meeting in 2015."

One advantage to a November start is that FIFA already has international dates during that month, meaning less disruption to the domestic calendar. FIFA president Sepp Blatter has agreed with the new International Olympic Committee president Thomas Bach that 2022 World Cup will not impact the 2022 Winter Olympics in February, which rules out January for a start date.



Moving the World Cup would greatly disrupt the football calendar

The scheduling of the tournament has been hotly debated since the host's announcement was made in December 2010. Officials from European football leagues – especially England's Premier League – said moving the World Cup dates would cause serious scheduling problems for the leagues for three successive seasons from 2020-21 to 2022-23, in addition to the African Cup of Nations which is set to start in January 2023. *Details: <http://lei.sr?a=d4N6C>*

Leisure key to saving UK town centres

The key to rejuvenating ailing town centres across the UK is to look beyond retail to things such as culture, entertainment and leisure, according to a new report.

For the past 13 months the Distressed Town Centre Property Taskforce (DTCPT) – which includes retailers, property investors, landlords and bankers – has been investigating the impact of the changes which have affected retail and property in the UK's town and city centres.

One of the main recommendations is that the government should designate town and city centres as key national infrastructure in order to open up new funding opportunities and that significantly greater flexibility in the planning system is needed to enable quick and easy change of use from redundant retail premises to more economically productive uses.

The retail landscape has changed completely in the last five years, due to the recession and the shift to online shopping, which has left the majority of towns with too many shops.

"Most of our town centres need to evolve urgently to meet the broader needs of the



Leisure could be the key to a new-style town centre

communities they serve over the next 50 years," said taskforce chair, Mark Williams of the Hark Group. "Waiting for normal economic growth to return is unacceptable and will result in many towns moving further into decline."

The report said that leisure is an essential part of a town or city centre's role but many towns have a negligible evening economy – even in the food and beverage sectors. *Details: <http://lei.sr?a=b3n9U>*

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